

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00423 261551Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05
AID-05 /117 W
-----001635 261554Z /46

P R 240600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 794
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
COMIDEASTFOR
USS FOX

S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 423

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, ELTN, MOPS, SREF, ET, DJ, SO
SUBJ: ETHIOPIANS NAME OGAZ GOVERNOR OF AUTONOMOUS ISSA ZONE

REF: (A) DJIBOUTI 250 (B) DJIBOUTI 395

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1. RELIABLE LOCAL OBSERVERS REPORT THAT DJAZMACH OGAZ
HASSEN HIRSI, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HE ISSA ETHNIC GROUP,
WAS RECENTLY NAMED GOVERNOR OF AN AUTONOMOUS ISSA ZONE,
WITH DIRE DAWA AS HIS RESIDENCE. AS NOTED REFTTEL, THE
ISSA ETHNIC ZONE EXTENDS FROM DIRE DAWA ALONG LINES FOUGHLY
PARALLEL TO THE RAILWAY, INCLUDING OF COURSE
MOST OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF DJIBOUTI REPUBLIC (TO A LINE

DRAWN FROM THE GOUBBET TO DIKHIL) AND THE AREA OF SOMALIA NORTH OF ZEILA. IT IS FURTHER RUMORED ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WILL SOON SEND THE OGAZ TO DJIBOUTI AS HEAD OF A GOOD-WILL DELEGATION. THE MAIN GOAL IS TO ENTICE THE MANY REFUGEES IN DJIBOUTI, PROBABLY 90 PERCENT OF WHOM ARE ISSAS, TO RETURN TO ETHIOPIA.

2. THIS NEW INDICATION OF ENLIGHTENED ETHIOPIAN POLICY TOWARD THE DEFEATED SOMALIS IS MOST CERTAINLY CONNECTED TO POLICY OF RE-ESTABLISHING RAILWAY TO ADDIS ABABA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. ALTHOUGH RECENT AFP NEWS DISPATCH FROM ADDIS ABABA STATED THAT DAMAGE ON RECENTLY-LIBERATED SECTION OF RAILWAY WOULD REQUIRE NINE MONTHS OF WORK IN ORDER TO BE PUT BACK INTO SERVICE, MOST PEOPLE IN DJIBOUTI BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE LITTLE IF ANY DAMAGES ON THE SECTION MELLO-DUENELE WHICH HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY WSLF. IN FACT, THERE WAS REPORT THAT WSLF GROUPS ACTUALLY GUARDED RAILWAY FROM DAMAGE FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF SOMALI REGULARS FROM AREA IN LATE FEBRUARY/EARLY MARCH.

4. THE FACT THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE AVOIDING ANY GESTURES TO UPSET TENSE DJIBOUTI POPULATION IS USUALLY ATTRIBUTED TO GUIDING HAND OF SOVIET UNION. RESULT IS A CERTAIN GRATITUDE ON PART THOUGHTFUL SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION. THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD TO PREVENT
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THIS GRATITUDE FROM TURNING INTO GROUNDSWELL OF OPINION IN FAVOR OF CLOSER TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION. THIS THOUGHT IS ALREADY PRESENT IN THE MIND OF PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED. WE ALSO MUST PREPARE HIGHLY VISIBLE PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN THE POSITIVE POSITION WE NOW HAVE IN DJIBOUTI.
CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, ELTN, MOPS, SREF, ET, DJ, SO, (HASSEN HIRSI)
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